



SENATOR ROBERT D. GARTON

serving district 41: bartholomew and johnson counties

200 W. Washington Street • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 • www.in.gov/S41

Bills on the Move

ELECTIONS

SB 483 requires voters to show government-issued photo identification, such as a driver license or ID card at the polls. There is a part of the bill that protects those who claim to be indigent or have a religious objection with being photographed.

Passed Elections and Civic Affairs Committee 6-2

EDUCATION

SB 285 similar to a bill introduced last year, defines bullying and requires schools to adopt rules prohibiting bullying and take steps to prevent bullying. This is a serious issue in today's schools, and this bill helps school districts deal with the problem without micro-managing their discipline policies.

Passed the Senate by a vote of 40-7

SB 200 provides that, beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, a student is required to complete the Core 40 curriculum in order to graduate from high school, unless: (1) the student's parent requests that the student be exempted; or (2) in the case of a special education student, the student's individualized education program does not require the Core 40 curriculum.

Referred to the Education and Career Development Committee

SB 256 moves ISTEP testing from the fall semester to the spring semester.

Heard Education and Career Development Committee, a vote is expected next week

PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 444 prohibits a person from selling more than two 48-tablet packages of a drug containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine in one transaction. These chemicals, used to make the illegal drug methamphetamine, are often bought in large quantities by drug dealers. SB 444 requires the package of a drug containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine to be stored in a secure manner and makes improper storage or sale of a these drugs a Class B infraction for the first offense and a Class A misdemeanor thereafter.

Passed the Senate by a vote of 50-0

SB 484 requires the state police department to pay health care coverage for the spouse and dependent children of police officers killed in the line of duty.

Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-0

PUBLIC POLICY

SB 304 exempts spouses and children of Guard members who are killed in the line of duty from paying tuition at any state educational institution. This bill was authored to help support those dependents and spouses who endure financial difficulties after losing a loved one in active duty.

Passed the Senate by a vote of 47-0

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upcoming events in the indiana senate

- February 24 - Last Day to File and Adopt Committee Reports
- February 28 - Last Day for Second Readings
- March 1 - Last Day for Third Readings

Economic Development

Governor signs first bill of the year

Before the development of steel-frame construction, most buildings were built by stacking stone on stone. The cornerstone was the first stone placed above ground. It usually faced the northeast, and there was always a ceremony to commemorate the placement of the stone.

There likely won't be much fanfare, but this year the legislature could be placing the cornerstone of Indiana's economic future. This week, House Enrolled Act 1003 was signed into law by Gov. Mitch Daniels. The bill abolishes the Indiana Department of Commerce along with several other boards and commissions, and transfers those powers to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC).

The IEDC will be reduced from a 23- to a 12-person committee chaired by the Governor. It will be charged with bringing new businesses to Indiana and further developing those

that already exist within the state's borders.

As Governor Mitch Daniels said in his State of the State Address, "Government does not create jobs, it only creates the conditions that make jobs more or less likely." Two Indiana entrepreneurs, Michael "Mickey" Maurer and Secretary of Commerce Pat Miller along with the legislature will be responsible for creating those conditions, and we are confident that we will yield success. These dynamic leaders will undoubtedly be great ambassadors for our state.

Accounting tricks, rainy day funds, and even tax increases can provide relief for a state in need, but that relief is always temporary. The only permanent way to solve the fiscal problems in Indiana is to create new and higher-paying jobs. These jobs are the blocks that build economic recovery, and HEA 1003 is the first stone we have laid.

SENATE DISTRICT 41

Adopted April 29, 2001
Effective November 5, 2002

This map is a visual representation of the district and is only for reference purposes. For a detailed description of this district, consult the Indiana Code.

